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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2470

UNCLAS CARACAS 00666

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: CASC/VE

SUBJ: TOURIST COMPLAINTS

- 1. WITH ADVENT WINTER TOURIST SEASON EMBASSY AGAIN RECEIVING NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS OF OVERBOOKING AND MISHANDLED ITINERARIES FOR TOUR GROUPS WITH CONCOMITANT DEMANDS FROM IRATE NEW YORKERS THAT WE DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
- 2. MAIN CULPRIT TO DATE IS LIBERTY TRAVEL AGENCY WHICH OPERATES THROUGH ANOTHER ORGANIZATION IN NEW YORK CITY CALLED FOUR STAR TOURS. TOURISTS TAKE 8-DAY PACKAGE, FOUR NIGHTS CARACAS HILTON, FOUR AT SHERATON HOTEL MACUTO. UPON ARRIVAL IT NOT UNCOMMON TO LEARN NO RESERVATIONS MADE EITHER HOTEL. BUSY WINTER SEASON HAS BOTH SHERATON AND HILTON BOOKED TO CAPCITY WITH RESULT SATISFACTORY ADJUSTMENT CANNOT BE MADE.
- 3. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF PROBLEM COULD BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF SOMEONE IN POSITION TO CORRECT SITUATION. PERHAPS NEW YORK STATE LICENSING BOARD OR BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU CAN ASSIST.
- 4. EMBASSY HAS CONTACTED APPROPRIATE VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS AND HOTELS SEEKING THEIR ASSISTANCE IN RESOLVING THIS SERIOUS MATTER.

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Disposition Event:
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Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: TOURIST COMPLAINTS

TAGS: CASC, VE, LIBERTY TRAVEL AGENCY, FOUR STAR TOURS

To: STATE

Type: TE

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